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Please deliver following letter from President to Prime Minister urgently:

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E.O. 12356, Sec. 3.4
NLK-85-26
By [illegible] NARA, Date 4/12/95

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 11/30/76
PER R. James OFFICE AF
FOI EXEMPTIONS FADRC FOI CASE NO. 5-D-322

QUOTE Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

I greatly appreciate your letter of November 16, 1961, on the Volta River Project. I am always happy to hear from you on matters of mutual concern and find your views most helpful.

All of us here followed the Queen's visit to Ghana and other countries in West Africa with great interest and were extremely pleased it went so well. I am sure that her presence in Africa was a definite asset for the West.

As I told you on the phone, the Volta Project is not a matter lending itself to an easy answer and I find myself troubled by many aspects of the situation in Ghana.

After close study, however, I have decided that on balance our overall interests require that we proceed to

Drafted by: AF:AFW:WBCoote:eei 12/15/1961

Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: AF - Henry J. Tasca

Clearances:
AF - Governor Williams
L - Mr. Chayes
U - Mr. Springsteen
White House - Mr. Dungan
S/S-Mr. Anderson

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FORM DS-322 5-61

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sign the agreements for our share of the financing of the project.

As you well know, the difficulty of this decision was compounded by the highly unfavorable public impression President Nkrumah has created in important sectors in this country by his recent statements in support of Soviet Bloc policy and his recent actions in Ghana. Of particular concern to American public opinion are the arrest of political opponents under the provisions of the Preventative Detention Act, the special court legislation, the strict government control of the press, and the consistency with which Ghana's policies in the international field coincide with Soviet Bloc policies and objectives.

The American public, including members of Congress, finds it difficult to have confidence in either the economic or political future of a regime indulging in such acts. I feel sure you will agree that it is in our mutual interest, as well as of great importance to the underdeveloped countries, that the support which the American people have given to our foreign aid program should not be jeopardized.

I have written a personal letter to President Nkrumah informing him of my decision, in which I stated very candidly that I have decided to go ahead with the project in spite of certain concerns which the American people and Government have regarding

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Ghana's policies. I have asked Mr. Clarence B. Randall and my Ambassador to Ghana to deliver my letter to President Nkrumah personally. At the same time they will specifically relate to him the problems in Ghana which give us the most trouble and attempt to persuade him to take certain action which would give all of us more confidence in the future of Ghana. It is my hope that President Nkrumah might be agreeable to the issuance of a joint communique containing assurances ~~of~~ on some of these points.

Following is a summary of assurances which would permit us to have greater confidence in the future co rse of Ghana.

a) Ghana is sincerely and genuinely independent.

b) Freedom of foreign newsmen to report events in Ghana.

c) The Ghanaian Government will not resort to subversive, terroristic and other measures designed to interfere in the internal affairs of other independent African states.

d) The Government of Ghana will assure the people of Ghana a degree of political liberty consistent with the security of the country.

e) ~~Ghana~~ Ghana's po icy of socialism precludes expropriation of this enterprise at some later date.

f) Prompt acceptance of a resident IBRD representative to carry out the consultative relationship with the

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Ghanaian Government as provided in the loan agreement.

I wish to stress that these assurances do not imply conditions in any way. On the contrary, I believe that I have suggested nothing which the Government of Ghana cannot do or say, since these are all principles set forth in the United Nations Charter to which Ghana has subscribed.

I hope that Her Majesty's Government and you personally, because of your Commonwealth ties and long experience with Africa, will assist in explaining to President Nkrumah the importance to public opinion regarding the Volta River Project in the United States and in securing the timely statements and actions which I have mentioned.

Sincerely yours,

John F. Kennedy END TEXT

Signed original follows.

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